



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Updated Review of Tebuthiuron Incident Reports

FROM: Monica Hawkins, M.P.H., Environmental Health Scientist  
Toxicology and Epidemiology Branch  
Health Effects Division (7509P)

Jessie Cordova, Information Technology Specialist  
Toxicology and Epidemiology Branch  
Health Effect Division (7509P)

THRU: Mary Manibusan, Branch Chief  
Toxicology and Epidemiology Branch  
Health Effects Division (7509P)

TO: Wilhelmena Livingston, CRM  
Special Review and Reregistration Division (7508P)

BACKGROUND

The OPP Incident Data System (IDS) was consulted for poisoning incident data on the active ingredient tebuthiuron. The purpose of the database search is to identify potential patterns on the extent and severity of the health effects attributed to tebuthiuron exposure. The IDS includes reports of incidents from various sources, including mandatory Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Section 6 (a) (2) reports from registrants, other federal and state health and environmental agencies and individual consumers. The following databases were not searched for poisoning incident data: the American Association of Poison Control Centers Toxic Exposure Surveillance System (TESS), the California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program, and the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health's Sentinel Event Notification System for Occupational Risks (NIOSH SENSOR). The EPA is supplying the following incident report to fulfill our requirement to docket summaries of incident data that were reported to the Agency. This report represents 3 incidents occurring in the United States from 2002 to the present for the single chemical only.

Reports of adverse health effects allegedly due to a specific pesticide exposure (an “incident”) are largely self-reported and therefore, generally speaking, neither exposure to a pesticide or reported symptom (or the connection between the two) is validated. However, incident information can be an important feedback loop to the Agency – incidents of severe outcome, or a suggested pattern or trend among less severe incidents can signal the Agency to further investigate a particular chemical or product.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Section 6(a)(2) includes reports of alleged human health incidents from various sources, including mandatory reports from registrants, other federal and state health and environmental agencies and individual consumers. Since 1992, OPP compiles these reports in an Incident Data System (IDS). Reports submitted to the IDS represent anecdotal reports or allegations only, unless otherwise stated in this report. Typically, OPP does not draw firm conclusions implicating the pesticide is causally associated with the reported health effects. Nevertheless, in some instances if enough cases and/or documentation of exposure and health effect or suggested patterns of exposure and response are indicative of a strong relationship, risk mitigation measures may be suggested.

The evaluation of incident data for tebuthiuron chemicals has reported (*relatively low volume of incident , no moderate or severe health effects that are plausibly related to the pesticide in question, based on toxicological data, sporadic incidents of an undefined or non-specific nature such as that clear trends or patterns cannot be discerned*) only 3 number of incidents, symptoms appear generic and not confirmed to be related to exposure, there is no clear evidence of a trend or exposure pattern. Therefore, at this time, there are no remarkable case reports which suggest a plausible association between a moderate or severe health outcome and exposure to pesticide tebuthiuron nor can we discern any suggestion of a trend or pattern regarding the health effects due to the alleged exposure to pesticide tebuthiuron. The current review of the incident data does not warrant further investigations at this time.

IDS Report		5/7/2009						
Chemical: Tebuthiuron				105501	Human Incidents			
Incident Number		Incident Date	Product Name	Registration Number	City	State	Exposure Type*	Incident Description
012694	009	20-Feb-02	SPIKE		HOUSTON	TX	HC	A 50 year old Male picked granules up with a can. He did not wear gloves but wore a long sleeve shirt and long pants. He reported Rash, Pruritus, Bullae/Blisters, and Erythema/Flushed.
016447	015	19-Jul-05	SPIKE 20P HERBICIDE	06271900121	LINDEN	TN	HC	An 86 year old Female says that she used the product about 3 months ago. She reported Dermal Irritation/Pain, Pruritus and Numbness.
016633	008	01-Aug-05	SPIKE 80 DF HERBICIDE	06271900107	ROCK SPRINGS	WY	HC	A 48 year old Male applied the product for approximately 2-3 hrs a day for the previous 4 days. Two days later he reported Abdominal Pain, Nausea, Confusion, Dyspnea. The doctor reported that the signs and symptoms are consistent with a heat related illness.